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Neurological stamp

Philippe Pinel (1745-1826)

When Philippe Pinel was physician to the Hospice de Bicêtre, the Paris asylum for men, he authorised removal of the chains that restrained the patients. The uncontrolled behaviour of the men, that others had predicted, did not occur.

Pinel was convinced that insane people needed treatment and were not possessed by a devil. His theory that insanity was a mental illness was not received favourably by the medical profession. His influence, however, led to a far more enlightened approach to the treatment of those that were mentally ill.

In 1801 Pinel published a full account of his new techniques in his *Traité Médico-Philosophique sur l'aliénation mentale ou la manie* (*Medico-Philosophical Treatise on Mental Alienation of Mania*). Three years earlier he had published *Nosographie Philosophique* which was an attempt to classify diseases in the way Linnaeus had earlier classified animals.

This stamp was issued in 1958 as part of a set honouring French doctors (Stanley Gibbons 1367, Scott 865).

L F HAAS

